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The selections are all of interest to the student of the Old Testament, and the translations are on a level with the best standards of today. The book deserves a large circulation. Indeed, there is no other book on the subject which is so full, so thorough, and so sane.

DAVID G. LYON.

CAMBRIDGE.

THE SERMON: ITS CONSTRUCTION AND DELIVERY. By DAVID JAMES BURRELL. Fleming H. Revell Co. 1913. Pp. 329.

The value of Dr. Burrell's book is in its frank disclosure of the methods of his own effective preaching. It is filled with concrete advice, very practical and useful, and enforced with homely and amusing illustration. It deals with texts and topics, the making of outlines, the "exordium," the "argument," the "peroration," and the delivery of the sermon, with counsels on getting attention and on sermon-power. The writer has little patience with manuscript in the pulpit, and no patience with liberal theology. The book is a prescription for a sturdily orthodox sermon, spoken without notes, scriptural, evangelistic, intended mainly to convert sinners, full of anecdote and apt quotation, admirably ordered, and punctually terminated at the end. Sermons grow like trees by processes mysterious and indefinable; but they need correctives and assistances such as are given to the trees by fertilizing and spraying and pruning. For such care of sermons Dr. Burrell gives plain and profitable directions.

GEORGE HODGES.

CAMBRIDGE.

THE PULPIT AND THE PEW. CHARLES H. PARKHURST, D.D. Lyman Beecher Lectures delivered, 1913, before the Divinity School of Yale University. Yale University Press. 1913. Pp. 195. \$1.50.

These eight lectures are not long, and they certainly are not dull. When spoken, they must have been effective, and the force is not lost in the reading. Colloquial language and illustrations abound, and some of these are apt to linger in the mind.

The lecturer is clear that the church has a work to do which no other institution is prepared to perform. He has not an exalted idea of the educational value of either the press or the stage. But the church of the twentieth century has for its duty the task of Elijah and Jeremiah: "To take eternal principle, and to measure existing conditions and institutions against that principle as stand-

ard." The aim of the pulpit is to emancipate men from sin. Its business is not to entertain or to instruct, but to resuscitate the conscience and to re-create the heart.

The author's well-known devotion to the cause of civic righteousness makes his discussion of the attitude of the church and the work of the minister toward social betterment, of special importance. He voices the well-known protest against an other-worldly individualism which "baptizes children over a font, but is dumb as an oyster to conditions that ruin children and youth faster than we can baptize them." But, on the other hand, he is wise enough to see that a ministry that exhausts itself in seeking simply to better conditions outwardly, never gets to the heart of the matter. "The policy of individualized work indicates the proper and peculiar function of the church. I know very well what the other kind means, and that for permanence and depth of result it is utterly inadequate. I have tried it, and I know its worth and its worthlessness. The business of the church is to bring people into the Kingdom of Heaven, one by one. The unit method is the only method."

Neither pulpit nor pew is flattered by the lecturer. If people do not go to church, we are told, "it is not the fault of the masses. People will fill the churches as fast as God fills the ministers." But, on the other hand, the young theologian is told that he needs to learn thoroughly before ordination that "while people have convictions, they are not very much given to making use of them, and treat them—especially moral and religious ones—very much as they do bric-à-brac, which is designed rather for decoration than for consumption."

Perhaps the most original and valuable lecture is the one on the Pulpit's estimate of the Pew, which every preacher would do well to read and to remember. But the lectures are all wholesome reading, and are calculated to carry out admirably the purpose of the lectureship.

RAYMOND CALKINS.

CAMBRIDGE.

THE MODERN CALL TO MISSIONS. JAMES S. DENNIS, D.D. Fleming H. Revell Co. 1913. Pp. 341. \$1.50 net.

Dr. Dennis has brought together in book form a series of papers written for various publications on the History and Scope of Missionary Enterprise. These articles have been largely rewritten in the light of current events and have been so correlated in the book as to make a connected history of missionary activities from colonial times to the present.